

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

RUINED BY CHINESE CHEAP LABOR.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

It happily occurs that at the moment we are recording the difficulties of a New Jersey manufacturer in substituting Chinese for Irish labor, we are furnished with the results of the Massachusetts experiment at transferring Ah Sing from "a heathen Chinese" into a skilled mechanic. The experience of Captain Hervey, at Belleville, illustrates the difficulties of organizing a force of Chinese, the cost of transporting them across the continent, and the dangers of introducing the new element of labor into a community where personal interest and political principles combine to create animosity and opposition.

The experience of Mr. Sampson, at North Adams, shows with what facility the Chinese can be introduced into the value of mechanics. Each experience has its moral, worthy the attention alike of manufacturers who contemplate the employment of this new laboring element, and of those organizations, whether industrial or political, which oppose the establishment of Chinese labor in any part of the country or in any branch of the trades.

Captain Hervey's experience establishes anew that no political influence, no organized power of trades unions, and no demonstrations or threats of mob violence, are competent to prevent the introduction of the Chinese. Captain Hervey has been threatened by laborers on the railways; he has been denounced at political meetings, and warned by the demagogues who, by some strange mystery, almost invariably hold the official positions in the trades unions. He has paid no regard to threats or warnings except to take measures for the security of his men; he has not thought for a moment of desisting from his purpose. The same threats and demonstrations failed to intimidate Mr. Sampson three months ago, and in both cases the resolute bearing of the employers has had its proper effect.

Not only was determination on Captain Hervey's part requisite to success, but also the bold adventure of a large sum of money. An expenditure of \$10,000 was necessary to begin with; and the result shows very clearly that to successfully organize a force of this kind the moral courage to risk money freely is as necessary as indifference to personal danger. Ah Sing bargains like a veritable Christian, taking all the advantages he can get, and the man who tempts him into a contract must give ample assurances that he can pay and protect him. Captain Hervey's experience in this respect is not merely to dispel the hopes of many small manufacturers, who imagined that the new labor could be obtained without much capital.

Mr. Sampson's experience, partly told in this and partly in a former issue of late date, establishes the important fact that a three months apprenticeship is sufficient to make the Chinese profitable workers at a difficult trade, employing complicated machinery. He has tested their intelligence, and proved it to be of a high order; they are eager learners, quick reasoners, shrewd calculators, and skillful manipulators. They know not merely the principle of the machines which they direct, but the relations of each part, and cannot only operate them when in perfect condition, but repair them when out of order. They are not quicker nor better workmen than the Irish and French and Americans; but they are steadier, better disciplined, and far more economical.

RUSSIA'S OPPORTUNITY.

From the N. Y. Times.

"Russia retires within herself," said Prince Gortchakoff at the end of the Crimean War. "There is no abatement in the military preparations of Russia," is the language of the telegrams. Between the two phrases there lies a Muscovite epoch with a wonderful history. With the issue of the latter begins a new era for Russia and the world. For the Empire of the Czar is not merely a dynasty—it is a civilization; not merely a great power, but the embodiment of a great principle and the promise of a social revolution. Cavour once said to a Russian diplomatist, "the equal rights you give your peasants to the soil are more dangerous to us Westerns than your armies. The Russia that England and France fought fifteen years ago exists no longer. The sternly repressive system of Nicholas is as dead as the choleric old Emperor himself. Within less than half a generation, twenty-three millions of bondsmen have been set free; public opinion has grown, apparently out of nothing, to be a power in the State; the Government may be criticised without the critic being sent to Siberia, and where all was torpor and reaction there is now a ferment of intellectual activity and of bold political theorizing. "We have everywhere in the world to set the bondsmen free" is the watchword of the Russian communists, and apart from the levelling extravagances of the nihilists, communism in Russia is a different creed from what is professed under the same name by certain dreamers in Western Europe and among ourselves. The commune is the unit of Russian political life. Each member of it is responsible for the other, and the Government deals with it through the Starost, or head of the community, as an individual. The land appertaining to an agricultural village is cultivated for the common good; individual ownership is reckoned an exceptional condition of property, and collective possession the normal one. There, however, the commune has its ends, and, unless a certain extreme, no intention is ever professed to vulgarize the most sacred relations of life by applying to them the co-operative economy of the farm.

Such considerations are perfectly relevant to the new appearance of Russia in the active arena of European politics. A competent observer remarked of the Crimean war, that it was supported by public opinion mainly "because it saw an opportunity of striking a heavy blow at the stolid power which lent itself to prop up every decaying throne and every worn-out authority from the Vistula to the ocean." The British Cabinet had certainly ulterior views in going to war for the preservation of Turkey, but these are of little consequence to-day, since even were the present Ministry disposed to adopt the foreign policy of Palmerston, there exists no national sentiment based either upon the chimera of a "balance of power," or upon a special antagonism to Russia, which would support them in disputing with that power the possession of the "sick man's inheritance." France cannot interfere, even if she would, and Great Britain will not. The time for substituting a fresh and aggressive civilization for one that is effete and thoroughly rotten could scarcely, therefore, be better chosen. With her seat of government on the Dardanelles, Russia would enter the fraternity of European powers, she can never thoroughly do justice to her head in hiding among the clouds and snow of the far north. Turkey is an Asiatic barbarism that apes western civilization. It is past being patched; sooner or later it must be reformed out of existence altogether. More may at least be expected of the civilization of the Slav than that of the Mongol. The world generally would regard with not a little complacency the burying out of sight of the diseased body politic that calls itself the Ottoman empire.

That the warlike preparations of Russia are directed against Turkey there can be little doubt. The Czar has gone out of his way to express his sympathy with the progress of the German arms, by both personal and official marks of esteem. Russian diplomacy will make no bugbear out of a united Germany. The intermeddling of France with Poland has found no precedent in the policy of Prussia. The probability is that the neutrality of Russia, which was worth three armies to the Germans, was purchased at the outset, by the wily Bismarck, with some such concessions as he dangled before Napoleon in the Austrian campaign, only to withdraw them when his purpose was served. Wider than the French Emperor, Alexander II. does not await the completed success of his promise. It may to extort fulfillment of the promise. It may probably be easier for Prussia to leave Russia to her own course in the East, when she is fully occupied with France, than to sit with folded hands after she has finished her work, and see another secure a rich prize. The time, therefore, is well chosen, but with all favorable conditions, what can tell, when the blow descends, what may be the results? Beside a great German empire, extending from the Inn to the sea, Austria scarcely remains one of the great powers of Europe. With Russia on the Danube, she could not fail to sink in the position of a second rate one, leaving but two great Continental States. It would be contrary to all precedent were changes so momentous to be effected without a great enlargement of the existing area of hostilities. As the year enters on its last quarter the shadows cast by the rising clouds grow deeper, and the future appears more dark and inscrutable. Ere these three months have closed there may probably have settled over Europe a dismal twilight of disaster and gloom never before exceeded.

THE GUERRIERE AT NANTUCKET.

From the N. Y. World.

When, as far back as last February, we seriously called attention to the deplorable condition of our navy—its want of organization and discipline—we hoped grave words of admonition might have their effect. It was on the occasion of the arrival of the Monarch in our waters with Mr. Peabody's remains—a model ship, completely equipped and admirably handled—in contrast with the clumsy, unseaworthy iron-clad which was sent to meet her, and on their way collided with each other and everything which came across their awkward course. From that time things have been getting worse and worse. The Onaida is run down, and her gallant officers perish mainly for want of boats; for, gross as was the inhumanity of the Bonny captain, there would have been less loss of life had not Admiral Rowan been peddling the Government funds in the Eastern seas and looking about for cheap markets in which to buy. Then we have the remarkable performance of the Colorado—a huge six-gun frigate, drawing twenty-two or twenty-three feet, and armed with all the latest and best armaments of the day. She sailed from New York in February, reached Rio at the end of June, the Cape of Good Hope in August, and is probably somewhere in the China Sea by this time—a voyage which a common clipper-ship would make in ninety days. This, too, when China is a scene of massacre and every American, merchant and missionary, is looking seaward for rescue. And now we have a new and deplorable exhibition of professional incapacity in the frigate Guerriere, freighted with Farragut's honored remains, running ashore in broad daylight "with all the boys in sight," on the Nantucket banks—a shot as familiar to the competent navigator as the Gibraltar is to a New York pilot. Were it not painful, it would be ludicrous to read of the great though reluctant parade made by the Navy Department, and then its impotent conclusion. First, the perplexity whether it should be one ship or another—the Brooklyn or the Guerriere; then the slow selection and despatch; and finally the sticking in the sand and superseded whalers of that region—the salvage by a transient steamer, and the transfer of the poor Admiral's remains, like so much common freight, to the Fall River line or Adams Express, to be delivered "as per margin" to the New York committee. While the Navy and the Brooklyn are exploding minute-guns here, the poor Guerriere was firing signals of distress at Nantucket. Who is to blame for all this we do not pretend to say—the radical Congress or the radical secretary—Porter adjutant—or the captain of the Guerriere or the sailing-master. All we know is that it is a sorry scandal, and confirms our fears that never in the history of the country was this branch of the public service in a condition of greater decrepitude. "If," says even the Tribune, "one of our vessels of war cannot steam from Portsmouth to New York without getting fast aground in broad daylight on a well-known shore, with buoys in plain sight, and another cannot come out of harbor without running down a schooner, there must be a fault somewhere to be corrected."

THE LAST ATTEMPT TO REVIVE RITUALISM.

From the N. Y. Sun.

The recent opening of the St. Sacrament Mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this city, under ultra-ritualistic auspices, has had in one respect an effect somewhat different from that anticipated by its promoters. Ritualism gains no strength by the movement. It exhibits, on the contrary, a degree of weakness out of all proportion to its pretensions. As a thunder-storm purifies the atmosphere, so have the proceedings in the little chapel in Broadway helped to clear away much doubt as to where men stood on an interesting religious question of the day. Prominent Episcopal clergymen supposed to have a hankering after embroidered vestments, censers, and acolytes, make haste to assure the public that they reprobate the introduction of such antique novelties; and one of them, who has been considered by his Low Church brethren far from sound on the ritualistic question, declares that extremes in ritualism "are as distasteful to him as he knows them to be to the Bishop of this diocese, and to almost all of our clergymen and laity." The pains taken by several who participated in the opening services of the mission to explain that their presence is not to be considered as a proof of their approval of them, is also a fact of considerable significance.

There is one point worthy of special notice in connection with this subject. It has been asserted by Dr. Dix and others, though not always from the same observation, that the accounts of the services at St. Sacrament's Chapel published in the daily papers were exaggerated, sensational, and positively false. If such had been the case, there was a rare unanimity exhibited by the reporters, for their accounts agreed so nearly, even in minute particulars, that they seemed rather to have emanated from the same pen, or to have been inspired by some person speaking by authority. The latter proves to be the case. The Church Journal of this city, an organ of the Episcopalians, having taken the pains to inquire into the matter, and to obtain their information, finds that they were supplied with the necessary facts and data by two ritualistic clergymen and acolytes who reproduced them in their reports. So much nonsense is uttered about the alleged inaccuracy of the newspapers in reporting the events of the day that it is gratifying occasionally to have the opportunity to show on good testimony, as in the present instance, that to inquire how reports are prepared is in almost every instance to show how absolutely trustworthy they are.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

From the Cleveland Leader.

The appointment of a new Minister to England naturally gives rise to the discussion of the long standing claim of the United States against Great Britain for compensation for deprivations upon our commerce committed by privateers like the Alabama, fitted out in British ports, armed with British munitions, sailing under the pretended flag of Great Britain, and who have not only never had any national existence, Mr. Moton for whatever reason, has utterly failed to bring about a settlement, or any progress towards one. It is to be hoped that Mr. Moton will be instructed to keep the question before the British Government in such a manner that it will understand distinctly that we have not forgotten it, and, moreover, that we are determined to insist upon complete and ample satisfaction for the injuries we have sustained through British treachery and bad faith. Under all the circumstances of the case, the United States would be fully justified in taking advantage of any domestic or foreign troubles in which the British Government might be involved to bring forward the Alabama claims in a manner that would compel attention to them from fear, if from no other motive. It would be better, of course, if an amicable arrangement could be reached, and the matter settled on the basis of mutual friendship and good understanding, so that its decision may not leave any ranking memories for the future disquiet of either nation. But if Great Britain will not settle the claim in this manner, then we must try harsher means.

REDUCING TAXES AND INCREASING REVENUE.

From the Buffalo Express.

The Courier affects to be unable to understand how taxes have been abolished to the extent that they have been by successive acts of Congress since 1866, and yet the revenue collected during the past year proves to be greater than ever. Let us see if we can illustrate the process so that our simple-minded contemporary will be able to comprehend it. We will suppose that a certain street railroad company had been charging for a long time a passenger fare of ten cents, but had employed during that time a set of dishonest conductors, who either pocketed half the fares they collected or else were in collusion with a lot of the regular passengers over the road and permitted the latter to steal their rides. It would happen in such a case that, while the public were heavily oppressed by an exorbitant rate of charge upon the road, the company, instead of being made rich by that exorbitance, would find itself going the road to bankruptcy. Suppose then that, all at once, it lowered its rate of fare to five cents, and at the same time cleared out the whole pack of dishonest conductors and put honest men in their places, who began to honestly collect every fare, and to honestly account for it. The probability is that the company, notwithstanding the great reduction of its charges, would find its revenues heavily increased.

REPUBLICAN TICKET.

taxes, the revenue which the Treasury realized from them barely sufficed to meet the expenses of the Government; for the reason that full half of those taxes were swallowed up by fraud—a vast, wide spread, organized system of collusion between corrupt revenue officials and the manufacturers of whisky, tobacco, etc., and by almost universal peculation, embezzlement and loose inefficiency of collection. Nine tenths of the spirits sold in this country at one time were of fraudulent manufacture and the whisky tax very nearly ceased to pay the cost of its collection. Two years ago these things were notorious; now they have ceased to be heard of.

It is plain enough that when the vast sink-hole of corruption and fraud, in which half the heavy taxes wrung from the people were lost, was cleared out and filled up, that half of the taxes could be remitted without loss to the Treasury. And this is exactly what happened. By act succeeding act Congress has abolished taxes which, in the aggregate, if they were still collected as taxes are collected now, would yield more than \$250,000,000 to the Treasury; and still, after all this vast volume of taxation has been lifted from the people, the revenues of the Government are many millions greater than before. By no huge sum is the money-value to the country of an honest administration measured.

POLITICAL.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

SHIPPING.

SHIPPING.